



Smithsonian *Gardens*

William Lyman Phillips photograph collection, circa 1920s-1940s

Nancy Sahli

2011

Archives of American Gardens
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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Gardens
Title:	William Lyman Phillips photograph collection
Date:	circa 1920s-1940s
Identifier:	AAG.WLP
Creator:	Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966 (Landscape architect)
Extent:	0.1 Cubic feet (1 box.; 30 glass negatives and 2 glass autochromes.; 3 x 4 inches.)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The William Lyman Phillips Collection includes thirty glass negatives and two glass autochromes showing a sampling of gardens presumably designed by landscape architect William Lyman Phillips. The gardens are located in Massachusetts, Florida and unidentified locations.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

Images donated by Faith Reyher Jackson, biographer of William Lyman Phillips, 1997.

Related Archival Materials

The Frances L. Loeb Library, Special Collections at Harvard University includes the Papers of William L. Phillips. Materials relating to Olmsted Brothers' projects that Phillips worked on are at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Preferred Citation

Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Gardens, William Lyman Phillips photograph collection.

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Biographical Note

William Lyman Phillips (d. 1966) was a landscape architect credited with popularizing the use of tropical and subtropical plants in landscape design. His most famous project was the design of the Fairchild Tropical Garden in Coral Gables, Florida. Phillips studied at Harvard, graduating cum laude in 1910, and the next year joined the Olmsted Brothers firm. He worked in Canada and New York, and laid out the townships of Balboa and San Miguel Ellende in the Panama Canal Zone. He designed many estates and parks for the Olmsted firm and traveled to Europe to study villas and gardens. During World War I, Phillips built cantonments in the United States for the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps. He was later in charge of landscaping American military cemeteries in France, after which he returned to the United States to work once again with the Olmsted firm.

In 1923 Phillips took charge of the Olmsted Brothers' projects of Bok Tower Gardens and the adjacent Mountain Lake Colony in Lake Wales, Florida. In 1929 he was hired to site the house and gardens for Charles Austin Buck, the president of Bethlehem Steel. The estate, "El Retiro," now called Pinewood, was in the Mountain Lake Colony. Phillips collaborated with the architect, Charles Wait, on the Buck estate until 1932. Phillips worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Dade County, Florida, supervising the construction of several state parks, and he designed the Dade County parks. In 1936, while Phillips was working with the Civilian Conservation Corps, he was hired by Robert H. Montgomery to design the Fairchild Tropical Garden.

Arrangement

Images believed to be from Massachusetts are indicated in their catalog records as being from Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1, in order to differentiate them from other unidentified Massachusetts images in the AAG collections. The unidentified Massachusetts slides in this series are likely from multiple sites.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Flowers
- Gardens -- Florida
- Gardens -- Massachusetts
- Landscape architecture
- Plants
- Tropical plants

Types of Materials:

- Negatives
- Positives (photographs)

Container Listing

Series 1: Garden Images

Florida

FL089: Unidentified -- Unidentified Gardens in Florida

FL089001: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: pavilion and fountain, circa 1920-1940

1 Autochromes (photographs) (3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Untitled Garden in Florida\]: pavilions and fountains.: 1930.](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Florida
Spring
Pavilions
Water stairs
Fountains
Pavements
Patios
Palms
Plants, Potted
Walls

Place: United States of America--Florida

FL089002: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: urban plaza, monument and automobiles, circa 1920-1940

1 Autochromes (photographs) (3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Untitled Garden in Florida\]: urban plaza, monuments and automobiles.: \[192?-193?\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Florida
Spring
Monuments
Plazas
Automobiles
Buildings
Trees

Place: United States of America--Florida

FL089003: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: driveway entrance in spring, circa 1920-1940

1 Glass plate negative (3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Untitled Garden in Florida\]: driveway entrance in spring.: \[192?-193?\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966
Topic: Gardens -- Florida
Spring
Driveways
Entrances
Utility poles
Arches
Roofs
Tiles
Houses
Place: United States of America--Florida

FL089004: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: pathway, palms and ocean, circa 1920-1940

1 Glass plate negative (3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Untitled Garden in Florida\]: palms and ocean in the spring.: \[192?-193?\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966
Topic: Gardens -- Florida
Spring
Driveways
Roads
Palms
Ocean
Pine
Place: United States of America--Florida

FL089005: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: roadway and trees, circa 1920-1940

1 Glass plate negative (3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Untitled Garden in Florida\]: palms at entrance.: \[192?-193?\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966
Topic: Gardens -- Florida
Spring
Streets
Utility poles
Gates
Entrances
Agaves
Palms
Place: United States of America--Florida

FL089006: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: house with path and palms, circa 1920-1940

1 Glass plate negative (3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Untitled Garden in Florida\]: house with balustrade.: \[192?-193?\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Notes: Double exposure.
 Topic: Gardens -- Florida
 Spring
 Towers
 Arches
 Balustrades
 Stairs
 Walkways
 Palms
 Container plants
 Houses
 Place: United States of America--Florida

FL089007: [Unidentified Garden in Florida]: marshes, palms and pines, circa 1920-1940

1 Glass plate negative (3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [Untitled Garden in Florida]: marshes, palms and pines.: [192?-193?]

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Florida
 Spring
 Marshes
 Pine
 Palms
 Place: United States of America--Florida

Massachusetts

MA032: Ipswich -- Castle Hill

Landscape architect: Olmsted Brothers

Notes:

Records related to this site can be found at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Olmsted Job Number 03793, Castle Hill, Richard T. Crane.

MA032031: [Castle Hill]: pergola and columns by sunken garden, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [Castle Hill]: terraces and arbor.: [between 1920 and 1939]

Photographer: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Place: Castle Hill (Ipswich, Massachusetts)
 United States of America -- Massachusetts -- Essex County -- Ipswich

Topic: Gardens -- Massachusetts -- Ipswich
 Container gardening
 Columns
 Arbors
 Pergolas
 Hydrangeas
 Wisteria

Vines
Sculpture

MA141: Unidentified -- Unidentified Gardens in Massachusetts, No. 1

MA141001: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: springhouse, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: springhouses.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic:

Spring
Meadows
Trees
Walls, stone
Springhouses
Drains

Place: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141002: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: view of meadow and trees, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: view of meadow and trees.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic:

Spring
Meadows
Trees
Walls, stone
Gardens -- Massachusetts

Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141004: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: terraced garden, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: stone lantern.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic:

Spring
Stairs
Retaining walls
Walls, stone
Sculpture
Stone lanterns
Containers

Place: Terraces
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141005: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: Colonial Revival house, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: Colonial Revival house.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Spring
Fences -- wooden
Meadows
Trees
Colonial Revival
Houses
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141006: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: terraced garden by ocean, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: stone walls.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Oceans
Walls, stone
Retaining walls
Trees
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141007: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: stadium (?) surrounded by wrought iron fence, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: wrought iron fences.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Stadiums
Fences -- wrought iron
Streets
Buildings
Automobiles
Utility poles
Flagpoles

Place: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141008: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: bridge, circa 1920-1939
1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)
[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: bridge.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)
Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966
Topic: Spring
Bridges -- stone
Ponds
Meadows
Trees
Arches
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141009: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: stone retaining wall and terrace, circa 1920-1939
1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)
[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: retaining walls and terrace.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)
Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966
Topic: Spring
Trees
Walls, stone
Retaining walls
Containers
Perennials
Garden borders
Lawns
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Terraces
Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141010: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: Colonial Revival houses, circa 1920-1939
1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)
[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: Colonial Revival houses.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)
Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966
Topic: Spring
Meadows
Trees

Place: Colonial Revival
Houses
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141011: [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: house with walled garden, circa 1920-1940](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Homes
Stairs, stone
Trees
Plant containers
Walls (building)
Arches

MA141012: [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: Colonial Revival houses, circa 1920-1939](#)

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: Colonial Revival houses.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Streets
Trees in cities
Elm
Fences
Sidewalks
Colonial Revival
Houses
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141013: [\[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: cottages, circa 1920-1939](#)

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: cottages.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Spring
Cottages
Picket fences
Trees
Walls, stone
Houses
Gardens -- Massachusetts
Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)

United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141014: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: front of colonial-style house, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: front of colonial-style house.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Spring
Walkways
Entrances
Trees
Colonial Revival
Houses

Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141015: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: house with portico and entranceway, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: portico and driveway.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Spring
Driveways
Porches
Porticoes
Columns
Edging
Rocking chairs
Houses

Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141016: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: woodlands, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

[Image\(s\): \[Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1\]: woodlands.: \[between 1920 and 1939\]](#)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Spring
Woodlands
Trees

Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141017: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: building and surrounding grounds, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: building and surrounding grounds.: [between 1920 and 1939]

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Spring
Trees
Lawns
Buildings
Houses

Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

MA141018: [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: roadway and buildings, circa 1920-1939

1 Glass plate negative (black-and-white; 3 x 4 in.)

Image(s): [Unidentified Garden in Massachusetts, No. 1]: streets and outbuildings.: [between 1920 and 1939]

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Gardens -- Massachusetts
Spring
Roadways
Utility poles
Fences -- wooden
Outbuildings
Colonial Revival
Houses

Place: Unidentified Garden (Massachusetts)
United States of America -- Massachusetts

WLP001: Unidentified

WLP001001: [Unidentified Garden]: field with trees and buildings, circa 1920-1940

1 Glass plate negative

Topic: Trees

WLP001002: [Unidentified Garden]: meadows, street trees and house., [1920?]

1 Lantern slide (3 x 4 in.)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Meadows
Streets
Trees in cities

Houses

WLP001003: [\[Unidentified Garden\]: house and garage, \[1920?\]](#)

1 Lantern slide (3 x 4 in.)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Awnings
Arbors
Garages
Foundation planting
Balconies
Balustrades
Window boxes
Houses

WLP001004: [\[Unidentified Seascape\]: ocean, lighthouses and house, \[1920?\]](#)

1 Lantern slide (3 x 4 in.)

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Ocean
Coastlines
Lighthouses
Buildings
Flagpoles
Houses

WLP001005: [\[Unidentified Garden\]: house, \[1920?\]](#)

glass lantern slide

3 x 4 in.

Landscape architect: Phillips, William Lyman, d. 1966

Topic: Windows
Trees
Houses

WLP001006: [Pickering's Speed Tester For Testing Photographic Shutters, circa 1900-1920](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Notes: Image shows 'Pickering's Speed Tester Sheet' test sheet tacked to wall.

Topic: Posters

WLP001007: [Pickering's Speed Tester For Testing Photographic Shutters, circa 1900-1920](#)

1 Glass plate negative

Notes: Image shows 'Pickering's Speed Tester' sheet tacked to wall.

Topic: Posters

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